

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01814 290953Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 ARA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 OES-03 AID-05 CU-02 DHA-02

EUR-12 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SO, CU, UR

SUBJECT: SOMALIA AND CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1783

1. SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ABOKER AND
SOMALI DELEGATION TO CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS
RETURNED TO MOGADISCIO FROM HAVANA ON DECEMBER 28.

2. ASKED BY NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT WHAT SOMALI DELEGATION
HAD GAINED FROM CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS, ABOKER
SAID THAT CUBAN EXPERIENCE WITH SEVENTEEN YEARS OF
SOCIALISM WOULD BE VALUABLE QTE FOR THE PROGRESSIVE
WORKERS PARTY TO BE FORMED IN SOMALIA IN NEAR FUTURE UNQTE.

3. OFFICIAL DAILY ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN SONNA
PUBLISHED BY MIN. OF INFO. HAS KEPT LOCAL READERSHIP
INFORMED OF CUBAN CONGRESS, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH
TASS DISPATCHES WHIHH HAVE BEEN EDITED TO HIGHLIGHT
SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CUBAN EXPERIENCE AND THAT OF SOMALIA.

4. SONNA'S REPORTS ON CONGRESS EXTOLLED SOVIET UNION'S
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01814 290953Z

CONTRIBUTION TO CUBAN SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT,

INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND FACT
THAT SOVIETS ALONE GAVE CUBANS HELP WHEN THEIR
NATIONAL EXISTENCE THREATENED. SONNA ALSO REPORTED
SELECTIVELY ON CUBAN FIVE YEAR PLAN -- I.E.,
PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF PRIVATE SECTOR, EXPANSION
OF COLLECTIVE FARMS, GREATER EQUALITY FOR WOMEN, ETC.
ALSO REPORTED CASTRO'S STATEMENT THAT REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS
IN CUBA IRREVERSIBLE AND HIS VOW TO CONTINUE AID
TO ANGOLA NOTWITHSTANDING ITS EFFECT UPON RELATIONS
WITH US: QTE JUDGING FROM EVERYTHING, THE US BELIEVES
THAT WE MUST RENOUNCE PRINCIPLES OF REVOLUTION FOR
SAKE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BUT WE WILL NEVER RENOUNCE
SOLIDARITY WITH ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND WILL CONTINUE RENDERING FULL
SUPPORT TO THEIR STRUGGLE....UNQTE.

5. IN SUM, CUBAN PARTY CONGRESS HAS BEEN FULLY EXPLOITED
BY MININFO IN MOGADISCIO -- UNDOUBTEDLY WITH SOVIET HELP --
IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE SOMALIS THAT CUBA PROVIDES MODEL FOR
WHAT SOMALIA MIGHT BECOME IN TIME. WHATEVER SUCCESS OF THAT
EFFORT, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS IN
MININFO HAVE FAIRLY EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF SOMALI MEDIA.
LOUGHRAN

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